

J.M.J.

*B Joseph Reagan*



# Rancho San Antonio

"BOYS TOWN OF THE WEST"

21000 PLUMMER STREET - CHATSWORTH, CALIFORNIA - TELEPHONE 341-3476

Directed by  
BROTHERS OF HOLY CROSS

Sponsored by  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER  
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Dear Brother John Baptist, C.S.C. :

This letter deals with a situation that I mentioned to the Provincial Visitor when he came here this year.

I have been having problems with my vocation. I have been in close contact with a Spiritual Director, Fr. Duzack, one of our parish priests.

You see Brother, I have for some time given thought about leaving the religious life and getting into professional ball. This is the game of baseball. I have been praying much and trying to decide.

I am twenty-two years of age, and I know that if I am to make the decision it must be now. As you well know, in the game of baseball, you must start young if you plan to make a career out of it.

Secondly, you must have something to back up your claims as being a ballplayer. I am a catcher. I've caught for around fourteen years or so.

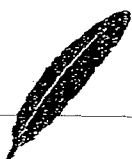
Well as I said earlier, this has been on my mind for some time now. Finally, after much prayer and thought, plus many discussions with my Spiritual Director, I felt the time had come to find out what gives.

I wrote to a number of scouts finding out different information on my plight, and if they could help me get a try-out with their clubs. The Philadelphia Organization, showed me great interest.

*OK  
BFB*  
I felt that I should have something to show you before I wrote this letter. That is, I wanted a scout's appraisal on my status as a ballplayer, so that you wouldn't think that this is only a dream that I've concocted. Also my Spiritual Director, thought that it would be right and just to have something on paper for you. He felt that God has had a plan in getting me a chance to play pro-ball.

Well I was scouted this past week-end. The only people who knew that I was a Brother was the manager and the scout. I played in a double header. I caught the first game. The scout took notes and after the game he had a talk with me.

He told me to tell you just what his report would be to the Scouting Department. MY possibilities as a professional baseball player is good. I look good behind the plate, as well as at the plate batting. I have a strong arm that has to be developed somewhat. I have trouble throwing correctly down to second base on a steal. He gives me the rest of this season with much practice and game experience and I'll be ready to move up to



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a better class of baseball. I've already been told that I'll be playing on the regular squad in two or three weeks. Sunday I played on the Rooky squad. He stressed one point to me. I have great hustle and desire to play ball. This is one of the most important characteristics a ball player must have.

This is what he had on me and what he wanted me to forward on to you. Now Brother, I have an important request to make and ask of you. I'm quite sure that not many Brothers have asked this of you, so I only hope that you will be understanding of my situation. I would be most appreciative and thankful, if you would please let me continue to play in this league. As I told you before the players do not know who I am. And as the scout pointed out, I need as much game experience as I can get.

as for my Spiritual life and work here at the Rancho, nothing will be changed. The games are being played on my regular days off. And I have not swaggared in my spiritual exercises one bit. *This is ok if you can arrange it conveniently, BJB*

Brother John, I want you to know right now that my reason for leaving the Brothers is not one of bitterness towards the Brothers or anything along those lines of thought. I respect the life and what it stands for, I feel though that I can better achieve my salvation and be a more complete person in the field of baseball. I feel very strongly that God has chosen me to this calling, for a certain work. And I also feel that he called me to the religious life, so that I might become a stronger and more able Christian.

Well Brother John I have given you my story. I hope that you will be able to aid me along these lines.

I am sorry to trouble you, as I know how busy you are and have so many other pressing needs for the community.

One other thing before I forget. I am supposed to renew my temporary vows. I made my first profession, August of 1968.

I am sorry for the typing errors, but I haven't been typing to long. I will be anxiously awaiting your answer. As I well know that I can not and will not participate in any activities of this sort without your permission.

I'll close for now, asking that you remember me in your prayers, as I keep you in mine daily.

5/5/66 Dear Brother John McLaughlin:

I'm sending you a copy of this letter so that you know exactly the story as B. Joseph tells it.

We feel here that You should set up any restrictions you think necessary to safeguard his religious life re: time be home, etc. Talk it over with him & send us in duplicate your decision.

*Brother John Baptist*  
Brother John Baptist, C.S.C., Prov.

May God Bless You Always,  
Yours in Holy Cross,

*Brother Joseph Reagan, C.S.*

Brother Joseph Reagan, C.S.C.